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Eradication of poverty and other development issues

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Legal empowerment of the poor and eradication of poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 63/142 of 11 December 2008,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[3] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[4] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development[5] and the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[6]

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[5] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[6] Resolution 63/303, annex.

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Please recycle

Reaffirming the importance of the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reiterating that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Remaining committed to the objective of making the right to development a reality for everyone, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Concerned by the global nature of poverty and inequality and reaffirming that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Africa and in the least developed countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based and inclusive economic growth, including full, productive employment generation and decent work,

Stressing that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing the economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels,

Recognizing that empowerment of the poor is essential for the effective eradication of poverty and hunger,

Recognizing also, in this regard, that access to justice and the realization of rights related, inter alia, to property, labour and business are mutually reinforcing and essential determinants of the effective eradication of poverty,

Taking note of the report of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, entitled *Making the Law Work for Everyone*, as a useful reference in the area of eradication of poverty,[7]

Reaffirming that the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger,

Stressing that gender equality and women's empowerment are essential to achieving equitable and effective development and to fostering a vibrant economy, and reaffirming its commitment to eliminating gender-based discrimination in all its forms, including in the labour and financial markets, as well as, inter alia, in respect of the ownership of assets and property rights, to promoting women's rights, including their economic empowerment, and effectively mainstreaming gender in law reforms, business support services and economic programmes, and to giving women full and equal access to economic resources,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

Deeply concerned by the significant challenges that the financial and economic crisis poses for the eradication of poverty, and in this regard reiterating that national

[7] Available from www.undp.org/LegalEmpowerment/reports/concept2action.html.

efforts should be complemented by an enabling international environment, to ensure the achievement of a more inclusive, equitable, balanced, development-oriented and sustainable economic development that would help to overcome poverty and inequality,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

2. *Also takes note* of the broad diversity of national experiences in the area of legal empowerment of the poor, recognizes the initiatives undertaken and progress made by some countries in advancing legal empowerment of the poor as an integral part of their national strategies and objectives, and stresses the importance of promoting the sharing of national best practices;

3. *Welcomes* in this regard the ongoing work of the United Nations funds and programmes as well as of the specialized agencies;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels;

5. *Also emphasizes* the importance of access to justice for all, and in this regard encourages the strengthening and improvement of the administration of justice and identity and birth registration systems, as well as awareness-raising concerning existing legal rights;

6. *Recognizes* that respect for the rule of law and property rights and pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks, inter alia, encourage business formation, including entrepreneurship, and contribute to poverty eradication;

7. *Reiterates* the importance of pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks at national levels to promote employment and decent work for all and to protect labour rights, including through respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work proclaimed by the International Labour Organization;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks at national levels to promote a dynamic, inclusive, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector as a valuable instrument for generating economic growth and reducing poverty, and encourages the promotion of an enabling environment that facilitates entrepreneurship and doing business by all, including women, the poor and the vulnerable;

9. *Encourages* countries to continue their efforts in the area of legal empowerment of the poor, including access to justice and the realization of rights related to property, labour and business, addressing both formal and informal settings by taking into account those dimensions in their national policies and strategies, while bearing in mind the importance of national circumstances, ownership and leadership;

10. *Emphasizes* that education and training are among the critical factors in empowering those living in poverty, and in this regard calls for action at all levels to

[8] A/64/133.

give high priority to improving and expanding literacy, while recognizing the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty and calls upon countries in a position to do so to support the national efforts of developing countries in promoting legal empowerment of the poor through provision of adequate, predictable financial resources or technical assistance;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit" and to continue the consideration of legal empowerment of the poor, taking into account national experiences and the views of Member States.